

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 16, 2003, claims 1-22 are noted as pending.

Claims 1-5 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirairi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,480,942 (Hirairi). Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirairi. The specification is objected to due to a lack of a summary of the invention.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

37 CFR 1.73. reads as follows:

A brief summary of the invention indicating its nature and sub-stance, which may include a statement of the object of the invention, should precede the detailed description. Such summary should, when set forth, be commensurate with the invention as claimed and any object recited should be that of the invention as claimed. (emphasis added)

As can be seen in 37 CFR 1.73, a summary of the invention is not required (the wording is “should”, not “shall”).

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-5 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirairi. However, Hirairi does not disclose “a programmable event conditioning logic unit to receive a queue enter signal, a queue exit signal, and a queue not empty signal from the queue” as claimed in claim 1. To the contrary, the FIFO disclosed in Hirairi delivers no control signals to any kind of logic unit (see for example Fig. 6). The FIFO control mechanisms disclosed in Hirairi deliver control signals to the FIFO, but do not receive information in return from the FIFO. For these reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated

by Hirairi. Independent claims 7, 14, and 20 include similar limitations to those described above in connection with claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-22 are also not anticipated by Hirairi.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Because Hirairi teaches away from a queue providing signals to a programmable event conditioning logic unit (as described above), claims 1-22 are patentable over Hirairi.

CONCLUSION:

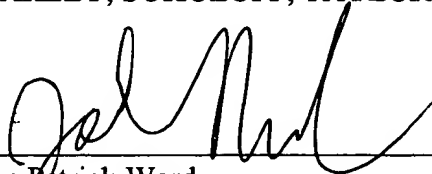
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-22 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-22 is respectfully requested.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Patrick Ward', is written over a horizontal line.

John Patrick Ward
Reg. No. 40,216

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